Policemen and Firemen - 1931

D.C.

No Colored Police Added

Of the 19 rookie policemen added to the roster of the Metropolitan Police Department last week none were colored. The appointments were made from a list of candidates who qualified in recent civil service examinations.

General

Policemen and Firemen-1931.

WHY NOT?

Is there any real reason why there should not be fire stations in Negro sections of Houston manned by Negro firemen? If so, what is the reason? To The Informer and Freeman there is not only no reason why this should not be true, but there are many reasons why such a simple matter of civic justice should prevail. Some of these reasons we shall state.

Informer

In the first place Negroes have demonstrated in other sections of the country that they can learn to become efficient firemen, as efficient as firemen of other groups. In Charleston, South Carolina, for instance, there is a Negro fire unit that is recognized as one of the most efficient in the entire fire department.

In the next place, everybody knows the interracial situation in South Carolina, and the fact that a Negro fire unit can win such acclaim in Charleston is sufficient proof that there are no interracial problems that cannot be satisfactorily overcome.

7-18-31

Then, too, with fire units in Negro sections manned by Negroes the homes of the Negro population would receive a kind of efficient, interested and prompt fire protection that can never be achieved when fire protection must come to Negro sections only by coming out of the white sections of the city. Which means that, in all probability, the city of Houston would improve its fire record as a result of having fire units in its Negro sections, manned by Negroes, just as it has fire units in most of the white sections, manned by white firemen.

Houston, Texas

There are other reasons, but we think that these are sufficient to indicate that not only will a simple thing of civic justice be done, but that the city of Houston would be the greatest benefactor by adding Negro fire units for its Negro sections.

Policemen and Firemen-1931

Only Colored Policewoman Begins 14th Year in Work

Mrs. Grace Wilson, Chicago's only colored policewoman, begins her 14th year in police work Saturday. She was appointed to her position March 28, 1918, with a record of having stood 5th in the large list of applicants, who were mostly white. Since that time she has made a fine record in her work, and has won the esteem of city officials by her unvarying efficiency.

As a member of the police department Mrs. Wilson, while on active duty, did several feats which would have done credit to a brawny male officer. One of these was to single handedly arrest a murderer. Later she was given creditable mention by the chief of police fo rher work in rounding up the notorious and dangerous "Black Knights" band of crooks.

Mrs. Wilson

And the small revolver which Mrs. Wilson carries is not just a regular part of her equipment, as she is an expert shot with it, having won second place for three years in the sharp shooting contest held by the Daily News.

Mrs. Wilson's career has been one of much interest. Before being appointed as policewoman she had been an ardent social worker, and for over two years was House Mother at the State Training school.

Despite her firmness where her duty is concerned, Mrs. Wilson is remembered by thousands of persons who have been in the toils of the law as a sympathetic woman of deep understanding. For the past several years she has been in charge of wome nprisoners at the Pekin court.

Policemen and Firemen—1931

Colored Cops to Wear Uniforms Off Duty Like Others

The Negro policemen of the City of Louisville after April 11, will be allowed to wear their uniforms from the City Hall to their respective homes. Heretofore they have not been able to enjoy this privilege due to the fact that it was feared that Negro policemen in uniform would create a problem and antagonize a certain element of our citizenery. J. Max Bond, secretary of the Interracial Commission, in cooperation with a committee of fifteen, informed Hon. Wlliam B. Harrison, Mayor of the City of Louisville, of this discrimination against Negro polcemen.

Mayor Harrison and the Director of Safety took prompt action in abolishing this practice. Mayor Harrison in reply to the Director's request said in aprt, "We agreed that there is no good reason now why colored officers should not wear their uniforms to thei rhomes after going off duty. Orders to that effect are being issued today. These and other acts ferformed by Mayor Harrison of the city of Louisville have won for him many friends among the Negro race. This recent action o' Mayor Harrison is worthy of commendation.

Policemen and Firemen - 1931

Granted Leave

GEO. B. PAXTON.

A veteran member of the Indianapolis polisee force who, because of illness was recently granted a six months leave of absence without pay. Officer Paxton resides at 2014 Highland Place.

Policemen and Firemen - 1931

FIGHT FOR COPS AND FIREMEN-- WALTER WHITE

N. A. A. C. P. Head Chides Baltimore for Lack of Organization.

5,000 N. A. A. C. P. MEMBERS ASKED

Politicians will Listen, then, He says.

Although he came to Baltimore to promote the fight to save the nine youths in the Scottsboro frame-up, Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spoke most forcifully on he political stagnation he had observed in Baltimore and urged his hearers to fight for heir share of the public funds, at a neeting held in Bethel A.M.E. Church, Monday night.

Speaking in this vein, Mr. White leclared that there is $3,000,000 in he fire department budget, $4,000,000 n the police budget, but colored citiens were denied the right to share n this annual expenditure, even in he most menial capacities. This ondition, he declared, can only be emedied by a strong association hat can make the politicians listen.

There is $9,000 spent by the public 'orks department, but colored people an only dig in the streets, for even he right to lift garbage and ashes s denied them.

Mr. White indicated Baltimore for ts laxity in supporting the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and declared that it s time for Baltimore to stop complaining of hard times and get out and make conditions better through organization. He urged local lodges, churches and organizations to take out a $500 life membership in the N.A.A.C.P.

Work Out Salvation

Prefacing his address with a tribute to the late Bishop Hurst, Mr. White spoke o fhis great respect and close friendship for the late prelate.

Touching upon the world-wide problems that are causing the nations unrest, he said: "When the world is in a chaotic condition this is the time for minority groups to work hard for their salvation."

Mr. White reviewed the Scottsboro case up to date, painting a vivid picture of the fight the association is making to free these nine boys from the death penalty. "The Scottsboro case is important, not so much because it is the fight for the lives of nine innocent boys, but because this case is a part of the whole mass movement of colored people here and abroad to come out from under oppression," he declared.

Speaking of the tactics employed by the Communists, he said: "If the Communists had come into the case on a platform of world-wide propaganda, as was their first motive, they would have made colored people their debtors. Instead, they have muddled the situation co[illegible] sending threatening [illegible] e prosecution officers [illegible] governor of Alabama and t[illegible]udge in the case. If these boys die, the lives of colored people in this country will be a little less safe.

The National Association secretary has already made three trips to Alabama in the interest of the case and expects to make another next week

The case, which comes up for trial January 18, 1932, has already covered 790 type-written pages of evidence and has cost the association $600 in stenographers' fees alone.

Darrow to Plead

It is expected that Clarence Darrow and Roderick Beddowes will make the chief arguments for the defense. Although Mr. Darrow had not felt in condition to come into the case, a hurried trip to Chicago by Mr. White succeeded in getting the services of the noted criminal lawyer.

The Rev. S. H. James, pastor of Leadenhall Baptist Church, told how colored people in Kilgne, Texas, are being defrauded out of their valuable oil property by white sharpers.

Ahe Rev. A. C. Clarke, pastor of Bethel Church and president of the association, presided. Carl Murphy of the AFRO-AMERICAN introduced Mr. White.

Ninety-one dollars and forty-four cents was collected at the meeting and some seventy new memberships were obtained.

The Rev. A. C. Clarke is president of the local branch, which will begin a city-wide drive for 5,000 members on October 22. Other active workers are the Rev. J. T. Colbert, the Rev. Ernest Lyon, Walter Emerson, Mrs. R. Garland Chissell and Miss Mary Cook, secretary

Policemen and Firemen- 1931

Kansas City Has Fire Company, Why Not Baltimore, Richmond, Norfolk?

Afro-American 10-3-31 Baltimore Md.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—After fighting fires for forty years, Engine Company No. 11 will move into its brand new home, 21st and Vine Streets, with all modern conveniences, Monday. It's a long ways from having a tent for an engine house, to the present new stone building, with hot and cold water, showers, frigidaire, combination kitchen and pantry, fifteen sanitary lockers, each having an individual electric light, a modern hose tower, dry room, captain's room, spick and span bunk room, two slide poles and an office.

These are some of the features of the new building which will be occupied by Kansas City's only colored fire fighting unit.

Organized in '90's

When No. 11 was first organized back in the '90's the company had a temporary fire station on Independence between Brooklyn and Park. Then the company stayed in a tent for a while, but moved into ence before winter set in. After a building located at 1309 Independ- staying there for a number of years the station was moved to 1812 Vine.

Had Five Captains

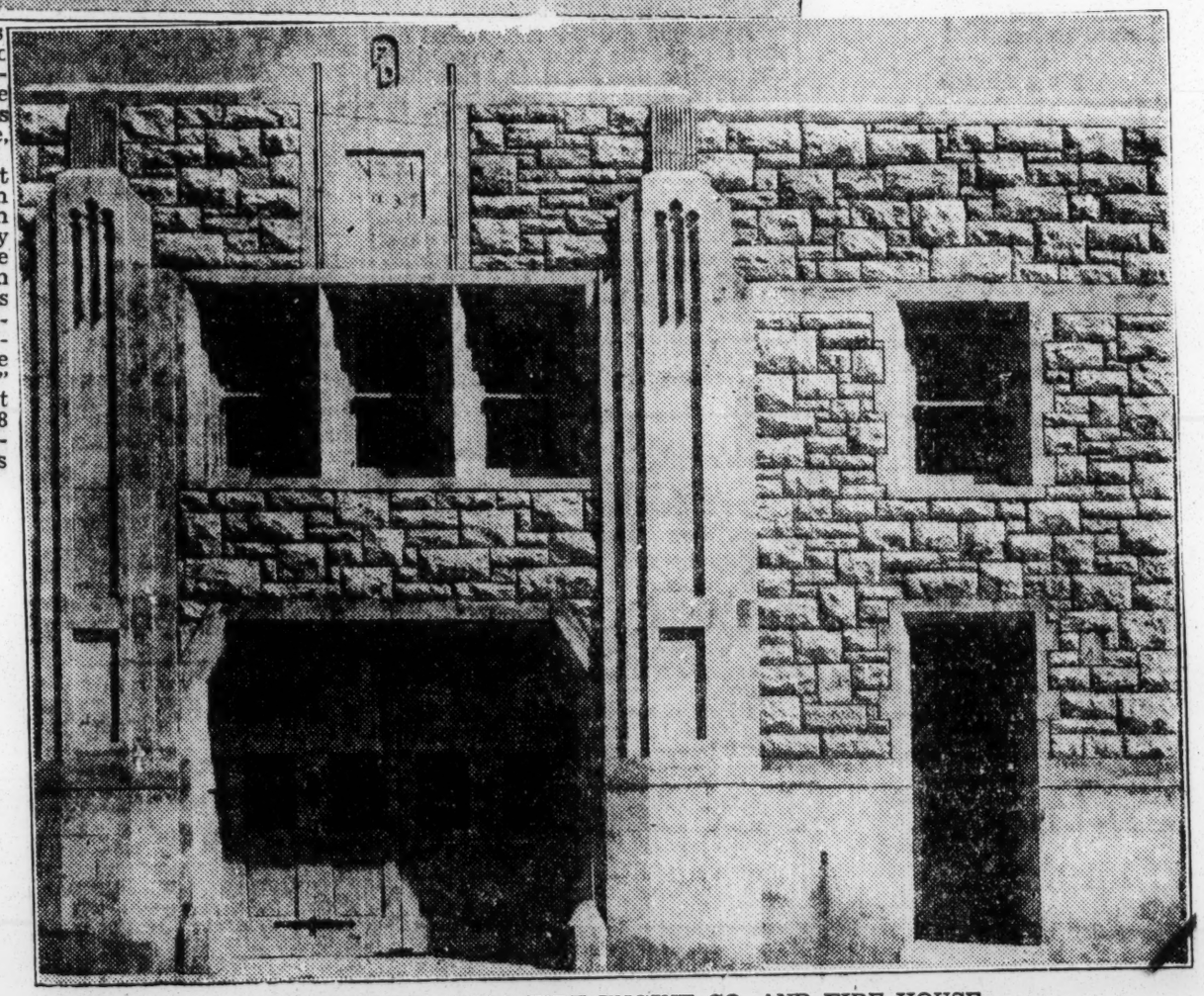
Five captains have served the company with distinction. The names are Baker, Martin, Gatewood, Carter, Elliott, and the present captain, Todd. The present organization of firefighters at Station No. 11 is composed of two shifts, one under Captain J. W. Todd, and the other under Lieutenant J. B. Cespedes.

Long Connections with No. 11

With few exceptions, almost all of the firemen have been connected with the company for a long period of time. Eugene King, driver; Jack Byrd, hoseman; Edward O. Wilson, assistant driver; and Walter Woods plugman, comprise the men who work on Captain Todd's shift. Working under Lieutenant Cespedes are Clarence Blankenbaker, driver; Amos Smith, plugman; C. W. Young, hose, and Leon Steele, hose.

No. 11 has been fortunate in that no men in the company have been killed in the line of duty, although all can relate instances where only smoke-eaters and heroes can come out alive. According to Captain Todd the motto of the company is to "Get to the fire as quickly as possible, use only what water is necessary, do as little damage as possible and make a nice clean job of it."

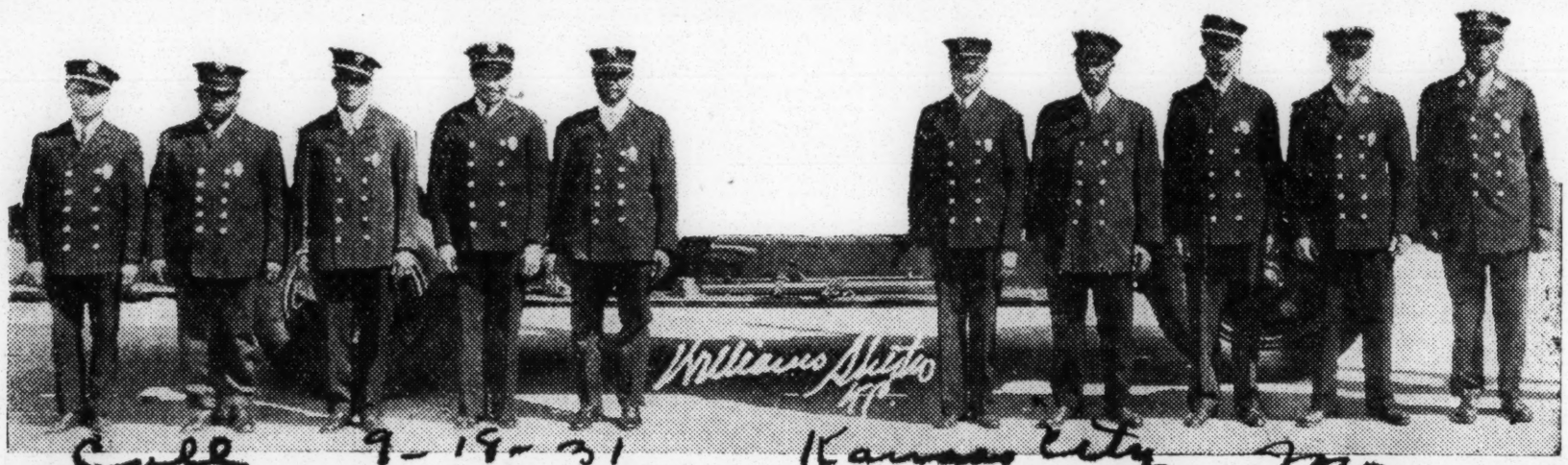
The four oldest men now in point of service are Captain Todd, 28 years; Walter Woods, 35 years; Eugene King, 20 years, and Amos Smith, 19 years.



KANSAS CITY, (MO.) FIRE ENGINE CO. AND FIRE HOUSE

Policemen and Firemen—1931

These Fire Fighters Get New Home at Twenty-first and Vine



Left to right: Leon Steele, Eugene King, Clarence Blankenbaker, Jack Byrd, Amos Smith, Edward O. Wilson Walter Woods, Oriel Young, Jasper Cespedes, lieutenant, and John Todd, captain. No. 11 Fire Company is one of the best in Kansas City.

FIRE COMPANY MOVES MONDAY INTO NEW HOME

New Station Ready for No. 11 at Twenty-first And Vine

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Captain Elliott Retired

Thomas Elliott, now retired, was one of the organizers of the present company. Later he became captain serving in this capacity for 15 years. "Cap." Elliott, as he was familiarly called, was known as a first-class "smoke eater." Some of the earliest members of the company were the two Joseph Kings, jr., and sr. Joseph King, jr., is now employed as a member of the supply department. He is uncle of Eugene King, present member of the company.

The men who organized the first Negro company here in 1890 are Ed. Baker, captain; Henry Williams, Thomas Elliott, Brownie Sears, and John Wheeler. Scott Pyles joined the company a few months later.

During the days of horse-drawn apparatus, Pete Campbell held the record as a fast and safe driver. He was cited for bravery after the Auditorium theater fire.

Open House Sunday

Sunday No. 11 company will hold open house to visitors and friends. A program has been prepared for the occasion, and the following persons will speak. His Honor, Mayor Bryce B. Smith, Hon. J. B. Shannon, Judge H. F. McElroy, Miss Georgia Mitchell, Preble Hall, Judge C. J. Welsh, Dr. D. M. Miller, Thomas Gershon, Fire Chief Alexander Henderson, and W. G. Mosley.

WARREN AND BLACKBURN PROMOTED

Sergeant "Tug" Carter Is Reduced to Class B Patrolman

Officer Edward Blackburn, who has been working out of the detective office of the police department as a plain clothesman for the past year was promoted Wednesday by Commissioners Field and Behrendt from class A patrolman to detective sergeant. At the same time, Officer W. H. Warren, who has been a plain clothesman for the past two years, was promoted from class A patrolman to detective.

Sergeant Blackburn was appointed to fill the vacancy created when Cornelius "Tug" Carter was demoted from sergeant to class B patrolman. Blackburn is now the only Negro sergeant on the police force.

Both Commissioners Field and Behrendt were said to have been out of the city, when a Call representative sought further information.

"I was much surprised to have been appointed as sergeant," stated Sgt. Blackburn to a Call representative. "Warren and myself have been working hard together as plainclothes patrolmen out of the detective department to be promoted as detectives.

Blackburn stated that he has been in the police department for fourteen years, starting as a janitor and working his way up to sergeant. In 1921 he was made Class B patrolman and walked a beat for a year in the North End. In 1922 he was transferred to Flora avenue station where he worked as plain clothesman for seven years. Under Chief Miles' administration he was transferred to No. 1 station where he walked a beat another year until July 1930 when he and Warren were assigned to the detective department.

"We expect to be more effective in our new positions," stated Detective Warren in a statement to The Call. "Since we have been working together this year Blackburn and I have cleared up about eight of the murders committed during the first part of 1931; and have been responsible for the conviction of about fifty men," continued Detective Warren.

"We have made a showing in the past and we expect to make our future more effective," he concluded.

Assigned to work with Sergeant Blackburn and Detective Warren was Officer Frank Stokes. The three will work out of the detective department.

Sergeant Blackburn and Detective Warren, who have been on the force for the past twelve years, will be remembered for their capture early in April of six hold-up men in six days. They were highly commended by Chief Siegfried for their good work.

Sergeant Blackburn lives at 2524 Highland and Detective Warren, at 2624 Highland avenue.

Policemen and Firemen - 1931

Color no Bar to This Nebraskan Detective

Afro-American 4-11-31

". . . I am heartily in accord with this recommendation and believe that Officer Jenkins's work in the Detective Department warrants his confirmation as a detective sergeant. Baltimore Md.

"Thanking you for your favorable consideration of this request, I am,

"Your truly,
(Signed) J. J. PSZANOWSKY,
Chief of Police."

So read an extract from a letter a few days before Christmas to A. A. Westergarde, Commissioner of Police, Omaha, Nebraska, by the chief of police in the same city. The letter had to do with the matter of confirming an alert and efficient Negro patrolman, P. H. Jenkins, as a detective.

The promotion came as a Christmas present from the department, not simply as a gift to help bulge his Christmas stocking, but because the work of Sergeant Jenkins during his ten years on the force merited such a promotion.

His career that led up to his work with the police department in Omaha is as interesting as some of the cases and experiences he related dealing with law violators.

He has been a farmer, saw-mill hand, barber, and is at present a detective. Born on a farm in Louisiana, he worked with the soil until early manhood, when he left the job of cutting corn for one of cutting logs at a saw-mill. It was at the saw-mill that he learned how to barber.

"On Saturday afternoons," Jenkins related, "I would cut the men's hair while they sat on an oak stump behind one of the sheds. That was my open air barber shop, and before long I was doing a pretty good job of it, too. My fame as a barber spread to Jeanerette, La., and I gave up the work at the saw-mill and got work in a regular shop in this small town.

"After a few years I moved to Lake Charles and opened a shop of my own. I was also in the saloon business for a while—until the city line moved across the street, where my saloon was located, which meant my taxes would be higher. On one side of the street was the city limits, and on my side was the county, so when the city limits absorbed my side of the street, taxes jumped from $200 a year to $1,000. I went out of business altogether.

"Then I came to Omaha. I opened a barber shop and did well until the war. I finally gave up barbering entirely, and signed up as a patrolman ten years ago. I love the work, and have always tried to handle offenders with a firm kindness. It always pays."

SERGEANT JENKINS

Sergeant Jenkins was severely modest when telling of his achievements in running down criminals, but did say that he felt proud of the fact that he caught, last spring, the man who was responsible for a number of dangerous holdups throughout the city.

He is active in church and fraternal work, and gives much of his time to these activities despite the demands of his time on the force. Deacon and trustee of Zion Baptist Church, Pastmaster of A.F. & A.M., Omaha Lodge, Shriner of Zaha Temple No. 52, Past Patron and organizer of Omaha Chapter of Eastern Star, are some of the outside activities of this busy detective.

Sergeant Jenkins has lived in Omaha for the past 22 years, and is proud to be a member of a police department that boasts ten Negro policemen, one a lieutenant and one a sergeant.

Policemen and Firemen -1931

FIRST 20 YEARS HARDEST, NEW YORK'S FIRST NEGRO COP FINDS

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va

BY BEVERLY SMITH
In Herald-Tribune

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Sergeant Samuel J. Battle, the first Negro to be appointed to the police force of greater New York City, celebrated the completion of twenty years with the department Friday moving into his office in the newly dedicated 32d Precinct Station at 242 West 135th Street. He settled his mighty hulk—six feet three inches of height and 250 pounds of weight—into his swivel chair and smiled.

The finest police station in the country," he said. A visiting police captain came in and greeted him cordially. His subordinates, white and Negro, came in from time to time for orders—orders given with a natural friendliness and dignity.

Things have changed a lot for Battle in these twenty years. He was most reluctant to say anything about himself and his experiences. 7-25-31

"Let me tell you about the two Negro sergeants who have recently been promoted," he said. "They are the boys that ought to have a piece in the paper.

Shelved Red Cap for Blue Coat

Finally, however, he consented to tell something of the early days, and soon he found himself drawn along by his own vivid memories. He told of how, as a Red Cap at the Grand Central Terminal, he had seen the limits of his promotion and resolved to be a policeman; of how he studied at night, overcame the handicaps of his lack of formal education, and passed the necessary examinations, and of how his appointment was refused on the allegation that he had a "murmer in the heart."

"I've never been sick a day in my life," said Sergeant Battle, rapping on the wood of his desk with his huge knuckle, "and so that murmer talk didn't sound reasonable to me. I got an examination from the greatest heart specialist in the city. His regular charge was $150, but he reduced his fee to $15 when he heard I was a Red Cap. He gave me a wonderful certificate, and my friends sent it to Mayor Gaynor. He took the matter up."

After further difficulties, delays and examinations, Police Commissionar Waldo came into office. One of his first acts was the appointment of Battle to the force. He was assigned to the West Sixty-eighth Street tsation.

Hazed by Silence For Year

But Battle's real trials were only beginnig. He was to face one of the severest ordeals a man can endure. For more than a year not one of the white patrolmen spoke a single word to Battle.

"They did not say anything mean; they did not insult men," said Sergeant Battle, mopping his brow at the memory. "Maybe it would have been easier if they had."Word of this hazing by silence reached the newspapers. Reporters questioned Battle. His replies were always the same: "I have nothing to say about that, sir; I have no complaint to make, sir."

In 1912 Battle, with some other policemen, was assigned to do some particularly arduous election patrol work. They worked day and night, and had been on their feet for twenty-four hours when they were at last sent back to the station house to rest.

Overheard He Was "Good Fellow"

"I was worn out," recalled Cergeant Battle. "I sat on a chair. I never went up to the bunkdoom with the others. I just did not like to do it. But this night, after the others had been upstairs a while, I was so dead tired I said to myself: 'They are probably asleep, I will just slip up and lie across a bed for a little while.'

"Nobody saw me come in. I lay on a bed by the door. They weer not all asleep. Some of them were talying. It was about me, but it was too late to sneak out. One of them said: 'You know, I'm sorry we've treated Battle like this. At first I thought he was going to be a rat. But he hasn't said a word; he hasn't a complaint; he attends to his own business, I tell you, he's a hell of a good fellow."

Sergeant Battle sat silent for a moment. His great frame seemed to relax. He took a deep breath.

"That made a lot of difference to me," he said. "After that, everything was all right."

By the time he went up to the Harlem Station, in 1913, he was thoroughly liked and respected. There his knowledge of his fellow Negroes, and his skill and tact in dealing with them, made him increasingly valutble. In 1919 he decided to study for promotion. When he applied to the Delehanty School he was told that a vote on his admission must be taken among all the other policemen who were students there.

Saved Fellow Officer From Mob

A few days before the vote was taken there occurred in Harlem the so-called "straw-hat riots." During the rioting a white policeman shot and killed a Negro. The mob went out of its mind and closed in on the policeman. It looked lik ea certain lynching until Patrolman Zattle, arms flailing, came through the crowd like a tractor thru a wheatfield and rescued his fellow officer. The students at the Delehanty School voted unauimously for the admission of Battle.

He passed high on the list for sergeant, but Commissioner Enright refused to promote him. He had to wait six years, until Commissioner McLaughlin was appointed by Mayor Walker, for the advancement to which he was entitled. Now he has passed the examination for a lieutenancy, and will doubtless be promoted in his regular turn.

Sergeant Battle was born in New Bern, N. C., January 16, 1888. He has been "happily married for twenty-six years." He has three children: a son in the Postoffice Department, a daughter in Hunter College, and a son in DeWitt Clinton High School.

SERGEANT

Courier 8-29-31

EMANUEL KLINE
Recently appointed sergeant on the New York police squad.

WINS POST OF SERGEANT ON N. Y. FORCE

By FLOYD G. SNELSON, JR.
(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

NEW YORK, Aug. 27—The local police department added a third Negro sergeant to the ranks of its officers with the promotion of Patrolman Emanuel Kline of the West 136 Street Station. The two senior officers are Detective Sergeant Battles and Sergeant Lewis Chisholm, both of the Thirty-second precinct station. The promotion carries with it an increase in salary from $3,000 to $3,500.

While a native of Beaufort, S. C., Mr. Kline has been a resident of New York for more than 20 years. He completed his public school training here and served throughout the duration of the war as a sergeant of infantry, seeing active service overseas most of the time.

Sergeant Kline, graduate of the English department of Columbia University, faculty member of the Police Academy, and recognized authority on lotteries, had been assigned to the district attorney's office as a "policy" expert for four years. He recently returned to uniform duty at the 136th Street Station April 13. He has been a member of the police force for 11 years.

As a patrolman, Sergeant Kline made a special study of all forms of lotteries. He speaks Italian fluently, having studied the language in his duties in finding information about the lotteries conducted by people of that nationality. He studied the Cuban and Chinese "policy" games also. He received the United States and New York state war medals for active service overseas and is a winner of a medal for sharpshooting in the city police competition.

"regular guy," he became popular in the department and in due time became a full-fledged sergeant.

Folowing this his footsteps 100 more colored men have become a part of the police force, two of whom are sergeants. Despite the fact that there are many enemies of colored cops in high positions, Ferdinand Q. Morton, of the Civil Service board has been able to see that the colored boys get a fair break.

NEW YORK GETS FIRST COLORED POLICE LIEUT.

10-17-31

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—The first colored man to become a member of the police department, is also to be the first colored lieutenant on the police force here. This man, Sgt. Samuel J. Battle, will soon receive his promotion.

Battle has been a 'cop' for 20 years. He had literally to crash his way into the department because although he passed the civil service exams, he was refused because of a faulty heart. Later Battle paid a specialist to examine him, and his heart was found to be perfectly sound.

Assigned to the West 68th street police station, Battle had a tough time for a while as the white police officers would have nothing to do with him. When they saw that he was what they desscribed as a

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.
REPORTER

OCT 14 1931

PROMISES TO NAME COLORED POLICEMEN

Speaking at a meeting held for the Democratic-Fusion Ticket in the Town of Greenburgh in the Fairview section of the township last night, Mayor Eugene Lehman of Tarrytown, Democratic candidate for Supervisor, stated that if elected on November 3rd, he would appoint three colored men to the Greenburgh police department. He stated that the men would be appointed as special officers and if they were capable of passing the civil service requirments would make them regular members of the force.

At the meeting which was held in the old Fairview firehouse on Tarrytown road, were a large delegation of colored residents of the district. Mayor Lehman prefaced his remark concerning the appointments to the police by saying that he did not believe in making political promises, and that this was not made as a promise but just an indication of what he would do if elected.

Judge John B. Coyle, Democratic candidate for the County Judgeship, also spoke at the meeting as well as other Democratic candidates.

HOW COLORED MAN OVERCOMES PREJUDICE ON NEW YORK POLICE FORCE AND REACHES ENVIABLE POSITION

National Negro Voice

"First 20 Years Hardest, Negro Policeman Finds"
(From Herald Tribune)

By Beverly Smith

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But Battle's real trials were only beginning. He was to face one of the severest ordeals a man can endure. For more than a year not one of the white patrolmen spoke a single word to Battle.

"They did not say anything mean; they did not insult me," said Sergeant Battle, mopping his brow at the memory. "Maybe it would have been easier if they had." Word of this hazing by silence reached the newspapers. Reporters questioned Battle. His replies were always the same: "I have nothing to say about that sir; I have no complaints to make, sir."

In 1912 Battle, with some other policeman, was assigned to do some particularly arduous election patrol work. They worked day and night, and had been on their feet for twenty-four hours when they were at last sent back to the station house to rest.

"I was worn out," recalled Sergeant Battle. "I sat on a chair. I never went up to the bunkroom with the others. I just did not like to do it. But this night, after the others had been upstairs a while, I was so dead tired I said to myself: 'They are probably asleep. I will just slip up and lie across a bed for a little while.'

"Nobody saw me come in. I lay on a bed by the door. They were not all asleep. Some of them were talking. It was about me, but it was too late to sneak out. One of them said: 'You know, I'm sorry we've treated Battle like this. At first I thought he was going to be a rat. But he hasn't said a word; he hasn't made a complaint; he attends to his own business. I tell you, he's a hell of a good fellow."

Sergeant Battle sat silent for a moment. His great frame seemed to relax. He took a deep breath.

"That made a lot of difference to me," he said. "After that, everything was all right."

By the time he went up to the Harlem Station, in 1913, he was thoroughly liked and respected. There his knowledge of his fellow Negroes, and his skill and tact in dealing with them, made him increasingly valuable. In 1919 he decided to study for promotion. When he applied to the Delehanty School he was told that a vote on his admission must be taken among all the other policemen who were students there.

A few days before the vote was taken there occurred in Harlem the so-called "straw-hat riots." During the rioting a white policeman shot and killed a Negro. The mob went out of its mind and closed in on the policeman. It looked like a certain lynching until Patrolman Battle, arms flailing, came through the crowd like a tractor through a wheatfield and rescued his fellow officer. The students at the Delehanty School voted unanimously for the admission of Battle.

He passed high on the list for sergeant, but Commissioner Enright refused to promote him. He had to wait six years, until Commissioner McLaughlin was appointed by Mayor Walker, for the advancement to which he was entitled. Now he has passed the examination for a lieutenancy, and will doubtless be promoted in his regular turn.

Sergeant Battle was born in Newber, N. C., January 16, 1883. He has been "happily married for twenty six years." He has three children: a son in the Postoffice Department a daughter in Hunter College and a son in DeWitt Clinton High School

Republished from
—The Dunbar News

Policemen and Firemen - 1931.

New York.

Two Negroes Among New York Police Cited

Negroes

Among the 121 policemen cited by Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney for excellent service during the past year were two colored members of the force from the 32nd Precinct. 1-10-31

Patrolman Vernon R. Holliday who captured two hold-up men as they attempted to rob a steam laundry at 155th street and Macombs place, one Saturday last summer, was among those commended. New York,

The other two from the 32nd Precinct cited for excellent police duty were Patrolman John S. Burke and Reginald G. Austin. They assisted Patrolman Holliday in arresting the laundry bandits. Patrolman Burke is white.

New York Police Make Fine Show In Parade

Age
5-16-31
New York,

The annual parade of New York City's Police Department, originally scheduled for Saturday, May 2, but prevented by rain, was finally held on May 9. Thousands of people lined the sidewalks all the way from the Battery to 60th street, where the reviewing stand was located.

Mayor James J. Walker and Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney headed the procession, followed by the five deputy commissioners, after whom marched the uniformed force of more than 15,000, commanded by Chief Inspector John O'Brien, supported by his staff.

The Police Department Band led the honor battalion and medal men for 1930, followed by ten regiments of patrolmen, each regiment under command of an inspector, led by a military band.

Conspicuous in the parade was Company A of the 7th Regiment, composed of men attached to the 32nd Precinct in West 136th street under command of Capt. Frank Brady, to which regiment was attached the regimental band of the 369th Infantry. Deputy Inspector Camille V. Pierne headed the staff.

When Mayor and Commissioner Mulrooney reached the reviewing stand, they left the line of march and the entire parade passed in review. A feature of the afternoon's celebration was the awarding of honor medals to the men of the honor battalion.

The airplanes of the air service division were in the air, flying over the line of march. Two squadrons, six troops, of mounted policemen brought up the rear of the line of march.

Moves Up a Step

Campbell Photo.
Emanuel Kline

Amsterdam News

Third Negro Named As Police Sergeant

Kline, "Policy" Expert, Promoted After Eleven Years on Force

The local Police Department added a third Negro sergeant to the ranks of its officers last Wednesday with the promotion of Patrolman Emanuel Kline of the West 136th street station. The two senior officers are Detective Sergeant Samuel J. Battle and Sergeant Lewis Chisholm, both of the Thirty-second Precinct station.

Sergeant Kline, graduate of Columbia University, faculty member of the Police Academy, and recognized authority on lotteries, had been assigned to the district attorney's office as a "policy' expert for four years. He recently returned to uniform duty at the 136th street station April 13. He has been a member of the police force for eleven years. 5-20-31

As a patrolman, Kline made a special study of all forms of lotteries. He speaks Italian fluently, having studied the language in his duties in finding information about the lotteries conducted by people of that nationality. He studied the Cuban and Chinese "policy" games also. Kline received the United States and New York State war medals for active service overseas, and is a winner of a medal for sharpshooting in the city police competition. New York, N.Y.

On the night of his promotion he was re-elected trustee of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 West 138th street, a position which he has held for more than twelve years. He was president of a Sunday school class of which Sergeant Chisholm was secretary at the same church fifteen years ago. He is an active member of the Y. M. C. A. and the American Legion

Detectives Robinson and Lehman Promoted

N.Y. Age
5-23-31

Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney of the Police Department announced Monday the promotion of Detectives William Robinson and Charles E. Lehman, attached to the 32nd Precinct squad, from third to second grade detectives, with increases of $200 per annum in their salaries. New York,

Detective Robinson, who is colored, was shot recently when he attempted to arrest a hold-up man in a Seventh Avenue bakery. N.Y.

The only other colored second grade detective in the Department is Detective William Boyden, also attached to the 32nd Precinct.

NEW POLICE SERGEANT

EMANUEL KLINE NAMED SERGEANT N. Y. POLICE DEPT.

N.Y. Age
5-23-31

On Wednesday morning, May 13, Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney announced the promotion of Emanuel Kline of the 32nd Precinct to a sergeant. Mr. Kline is the third Negro to be promoted to sergeant in the New York Police Department. The promotion carries with it an increase in salary from $3,000 to $3,500.

Mr. Kline is a native of Beufort, S. C. but has been a resident of New York for more than twenty years. He completed his public school training here and served throughout the duration of the war as a sergeant of infantry, seeing active service overseas most of the time. New York, N.Y.

Upon his return he studied in the high school and the English department of Columbia University. He also studied Italian and reads, writes and speaks this language fluently.

He was appointed to the police force on May 5, 1920. For the past five years he has been acting as policy expert in the Court of Special Sessions and was responsible for many of the convictions of "numbers" players in that court. He lectured at the Police College on this subject to rookie policemen. Two years ago he competed with 7,000 other patrolmen in a Civil Service examination for sergeant. Only 1,000 passed and Mr. Kline stood 570 on the list.

Unlike most policemen, he has been active in religious and welfare work in Harlem. He has been a Trustee of Abysinian Baptist Church for 15 years and was a boys worker in the church before joining the police force. Incidently, he was re-elected a trustee of Abyssinian on the same day he was appointed sergeant.

He is also active in the Y. M. C. A. work and has been a member of the Committee of Management for the Y for a number of years. He is an enthusiastic hand-ball player and is the Y champion in this sport.

He has been assigned to duty in the 32nd Precinct.

The other two Negro sergeants in the Police Department are Samuel J. Battles and Louis Chisholm.

LAUD NEGRO POLICEMEN

Argus
7-17-31

Mayor Walker And Police Head Praise Work Of Colored Officers At Dedication Of New Station House

St. Louis, Mo.

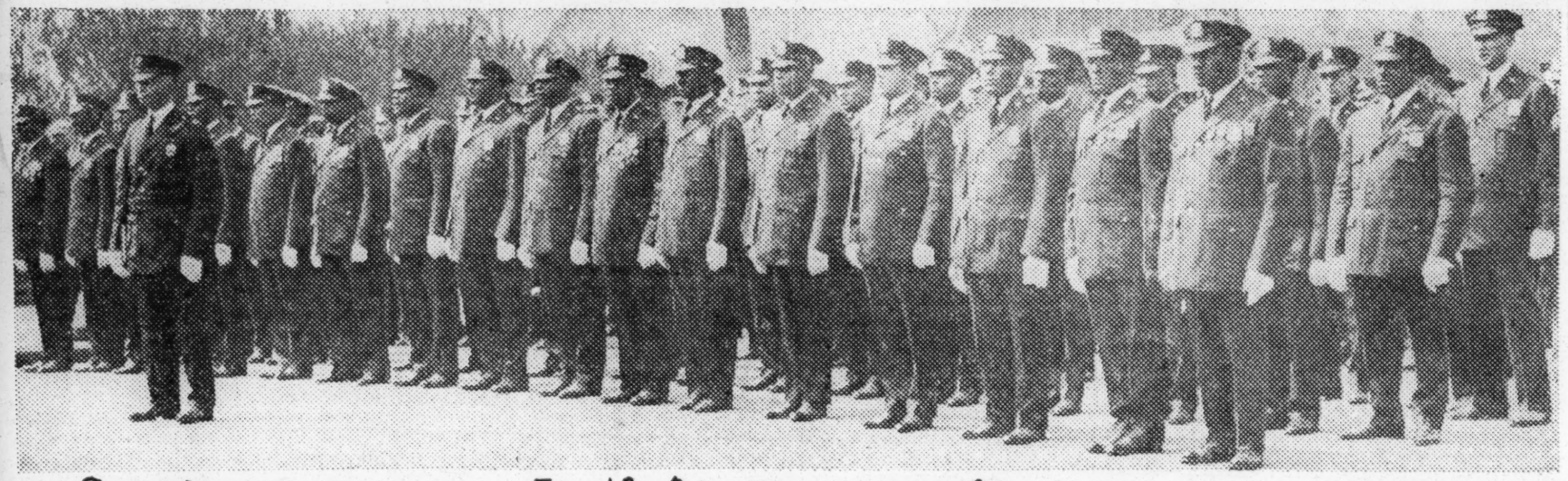
NEW YORK, July 16.—"New York's finest," was the theme of Mayor Walker and Police Commissioner Mulrooney's addresses in referring to colored police officers, when they participated in the dedicatory exercise of the new Thirty-second precinct police station in the heart of Harlem Tuesday.

Thousands At Ceremony

Several thousand Negro residents listened to the ceremonies, which were held on a temporary speakers' stand on the sidewalk in front of the new station house.

The program opened with a parade from Seventh Avenue and 135th street to the new building. Deputy Chief Inspector James S. Bolan led the march, followed by the police band and the personnel of the pre-

Harlem's Finest in Police Parade



Eastern Features Photo.

THE WEST 136TH STREET police station was represented by thirty-eight Negro patrolmen in the annual police parade Saturday. Sergeant Lewis Chisholm led the men at the head of the Eighth Regiment. The 369th Infantry band preceded this unit. The march, led by Mayor Walker and Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney, former commander of the 135th street station, began at the Battery and ended at Sixty-seventh street.

cinct, in command of Captain Frank Brady. Ninety per cent of the patrolmen and sergeants assigned to duty in the precinct are Negroes.

In honor of the occasion the new station house and the speakers' stand were decorated with flags and bunting. Flags flew from windows of apartment houses in the vicinity and the windows and rooftops were crowded.

Cites Their Bravery

Mayor Walker cited the presence of so many Negro patrolmen as proof that there was no race prejudice in command of Captain Frank Commissioner Mulrooney praised the Negro members of the force. Other speakers were Alderman Fred R. Moore, who was chairman, and Municipal Civil Service Commissioner Ferdinand Q. Morton. The ceremonies were broadcast over radio station WNYC.

The new building, a four-story structure with an adjoining one-story garage, contains every detail of modern equipment, including a pistol range and a jail with fourteen cells. It cost $200,000.

After the speaking program was completed the crowd was amused by a staged arrest, the participants being Serg. Samuel Battle, first Negro appointed to the force, and Bill Robinson, who had sought the distinction of being the first man to be arrested in the new station house, was taken inside the building by the sergeant. There he received a $20 goldpiece, donated by a Harlem politician as a gift for the first man arrested, and was released.

Harlem Has Another Negro Policeman on The Motorcycle Squad

Patrolman Charles Williams of the 32nd Precinct has been transferred to the motorcycle squad of the traffic division, by order of Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney. The transfer became effective Tuesday morning of this week.

Patrolman Williams is the second Negro member of the motorcycle squad, the first being Gladwell Knowles, who was appointed about a year ago. The new member of the squad has been a policeman for about eight years and has an excellent record. Like Knowles, he is a native of Florida and a veteran of the world war.

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Calif. Detective Lieut. Gets Murderer in Boston After 6 Months' Search

Lieutenant-Detective Robert F. Green of the Los Angels Police Department was in New York City last week enroute home with a prisoner from Boston, who was arrested for a murder committed over six years ago.

The prisoner was Homer H. Sams a veteran of the 10th U. S. Cavalry and the 24th U. S. Infantry, who fatally shot a supposed rival for his wife's affections, and then shot his wife, while in a jealous rage. He managed to escape, and had been living in Boston under an assumed name for three years.

The Los Angeles police were able to trace him by the files of the War Department when the change of address was noted on his pension.

Lieut.-Detective Green is one of three Negro members of the Los Angeles police force to hold that rank at the present time. Three others have been retired. There are about 57 Negro officers in the Los Angeles Police Department.

Fellow officers from the 32nd Precinct of Harlem showed Lieutenant Green many courtesies while he was in the city.

Policemen and Firemen - 1931

North Carolina

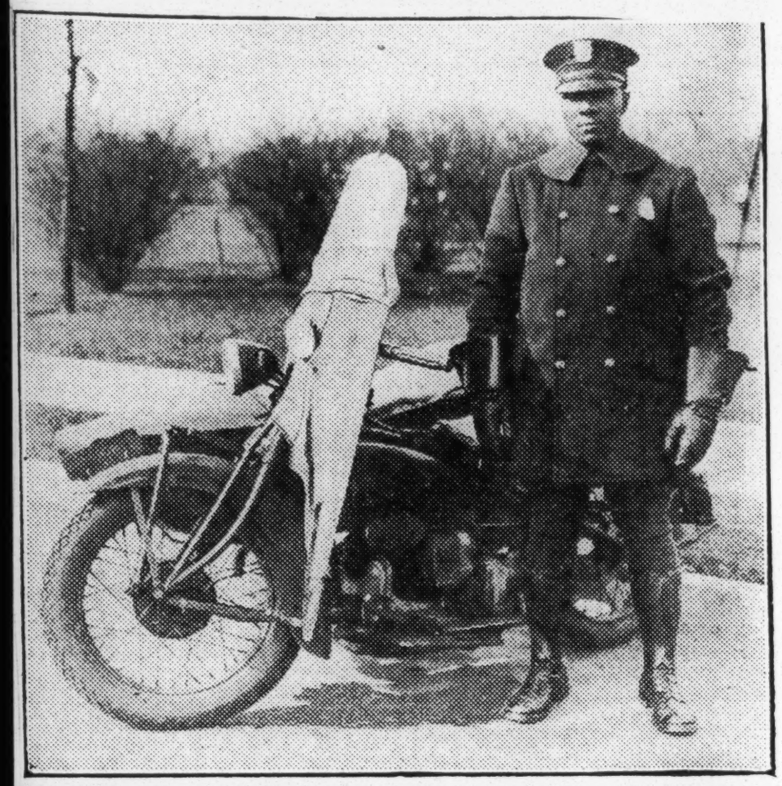
N.C. FIREMEN IN 41ST SESSION

TARBORO, N.C.—The 41st annual session of the North Carolina Colored Volunteer Firemen's Association was held at the court house here last Tuesday morning.

The local firemen were hosts to the visitors and an elaborate program was given at the day's meeting. Those who took part were as follows:

Meeting called to order by President C. S. L. A. Taylor.
Music—Negro National Anthem—Community Choir.
Prayer by chaplain, the Rev. J. W. Grimes.
Welcome to visiting firemen, Mayor J. H. Price.
Response, Prof. L. H. Hall, Salisbury.
Solo, Miss Helen A. Walston.
Remarks, Fire Chief Spencer Dancy.
Address, Hon. Sherwood Brockwell, Raleigh (Fire Marshal for North Carolina).
Response, the Rev. J. W. Grimes, Washington.
Solo, Mrs. Richard Parker.
Remarks on behalf of colored firemen, J. P. Keech.
Remarks, Fire Chief R. J. Woods, Oxford.
Response, Prof. F. W. Pullen, Enfield.
Solo, Miss Cora Dancy.
Paper, Mrs. Carrie Battle Bratcher.
Duet, Misses Naomi Barrett, Katherine Weston.
Remarks, Fire Chief G. M. Mabry, Goldsboro.
Response, C. R. Miller, Fayetteville.
Recitation, Mrs. Reva F. Branch.
Remarks on colored churches, the Rev. J. H. Chase.
Remarks on colored business, C. M. Dancy
Music, Community Choir.
Remarks, Chife J. S. Howell, Louisburg.
Response, C. R. Johnson, Concord.
Duet, Messrs. Sharp and Reeves.
Remarks on Sunday Schools, J. R. Ervin.
Solo, Miss E. M. Stanback, Warrenton.
Remarks on City Schools, Prof. W. A. Pattillo.
Solo, James Bridgers.
Instrumental solo, Messrs. Mays and Edmonds.
Music, Community Choir, Tarboro.

Policemen and Firemen - 1931



MOTORCYCLE COP—Eddie Huff, motorcycle policeman of Dayton, Ohio. He is a former Chicago boy, graduate of Hyde Park high school, later a four-letter star at Wilberforce university. His parents reside at 6327 Eberhart Ave., Chicago. He is the first of his Race to hold this job in Dayton.

Ohio

Pennsylvania.

Policemen and Firemen - 1931

PHILADELPHIA GETS FIRST NEGRO FIRE LIEUTENANT

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8—(CNS)—Peter Graham, of 5728 Arch street, was sworn in here last week as a lieutenant in the city fire department. Graham is the first colored man to hold such a post in the department and was among 70 men who were promoted. Graham has been assigned to Engine Company No. 11, Tenth and South streets. The captain of the company is white.

Pennsylvania

Policemen and Firemen - 1931

EVELYN PAYNE APPOINTED POLICEWOMAN

1-25-31

Pittsburgh, Pa

Mrs. R. Evelyn Payne, of Flavel street, leader in city Republican circles, was appointed policewoman by the Department of Public Safety on Monday morning. Mrs. Payne's appointment was one of the first of the new year. She says she is especially grateful to Judge William J. Soost for the honor. Judge Soost is city chairman and also heads up the Eleventh ward.

Mrs. Payne is El venth ward committeewoman, president of the East End Republican Women's Council of the state of Pennsylvania, region director of the Pennsylvania Republican Council, which latter appointment she receiv d through Mrs. C. A. Verner. Mrs. Payne also is the founder of the Greater Pittsburgh Women's Progressive League, the Ristos Arts Symposium and honorary president of the western district of the Pennsylvania Federation of Negro Women s Clubs.

Va. Otay is Faint as Philly Cop Calls Him "Hick"

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Charlie McCabe, a big-hearted white farmer, of Norfolk, Va., who had protested vigorously when whites in his home state tried to Jim Crow his chauffeur in a restaurant, lost all his enthusiasm for racial equality when he was arrested by a big brown-skinned policeman here.

McCabe, who with a colored driver arrived here early Monday morning with a truck load of farm produce struck a Ford sedan at an intersection and considerable commotion was caused.

"What's the trouble here, you big hick?" came the voice of a policeman who forced his way through the crowd.

McCabe had never seen a colored policeman and did not believe that one existed. He proceeded to tell the officer what he thought of him in good old Virginia fashion. To his surprise the officer pulled out a pair of handcuffs and placed the Southerner under arrest.

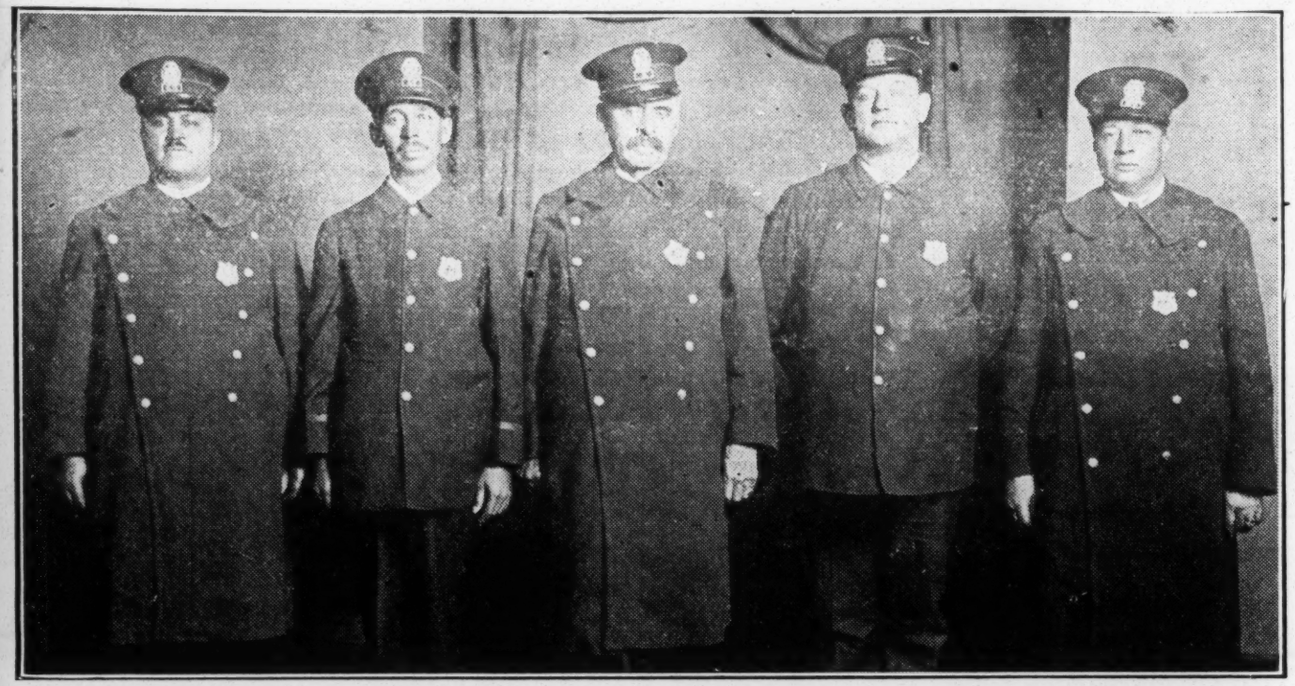
When he saw that colored officers really had authority in Philadelphia, McCabe changed his tune and in a meek voice, apologized and informed the officer that he too was a sheriff in his own home town. The officer extended him professional courtesy and released him upon his promise to adjust the matter with the other motorist.

1-17-31

Changed Heart

The colored chauffeur could not understand the sudden change in his employer, who had raised a protest at Cape Charles, Va., when a waiter in a white restaurant wanted the driver to go around to the back in order to get something to eat. The farmer insised that the driver eat with him at his table, and paid for both

Policemen and Firemen - 1931



KNOXVILLE'S GROUP OF NEGRO POLICE OFFICERS CONNECTED WITH THE FORCE IN 1910.
East Tennessee News 4-23-31 Knoxville, Tenn.
In the group, left to right are Charles Redmond, (retired;) James Smith, a present patrol driver; Joseph Reynolds and Frank Robinson, deceased; and Ernest Scruggs, at present an active member of the force.

With the death last week of W.S. Lillison, for many years an active and efficient officer with the police department, until his retirement more than ten years ago, the local citizenship experiences the loss of one of its best known citizens.

Wilburn Lyons Thomas Nowlin, now recovering from a severe attack of meningitis, and John Mofet are the other members of the racial group now serving as police officers.

COLORED FIREMAN RETIRED FROM FORCE

Globe

TOM H. BROWN COMPLETES THIRTY YEARS OF DUTY WITH CITY OF NASHVILLE

9-4-31

(From Nashville Banner)

Now that his many years of active service have drawn to a close, Tom H. Brown, 53, colored city fireman, who was placed on the pension list Monday, is beginning to think back over the thirty years of duty in the Fire Department and see them in a different light. It is hard for Tom to realize that he will soon be a "has been."

Nashville, Tenn.

Tom started his career as a fireman in 1901 when he was assigned the duties of a pipeman in Engine Company No. 3 colored), then located on Woodland Street. He served in this capacity for eight years and was then raised to assistant engineer. After five years of this work Tom became a driver of the horse engine. When he had driven the horses to all the large fires for three years the colored engine company changed its name and location, becoming No. 11, on Jefferson Street. With these changes came two other changes. The Fire Department was motorized and Tom was made engineer of No. 11, which position he has held until the time of his retirement.

Globe 9-4-31

When asked how he happened to become a fireman Tom said, "Well, when I was young I just got around too fast to be anything else but a fireman, and I'm not so slow now because I never missed a fire since I've been driving."

When the days of the horse engines were mentioned Tom brightened up. He declared there was twice as much kick in driving the horses to a fire as a truck. "Everybody at the fire hall used to love those horses," he said. "We used to feed them and take care of them like children. They were smart too, why you could call one horse out of the group by name and he would come while the rest stayed where they were until you called their names. They loved to hear the alarm go off."

Tom said that the East Nashville fire was the biggest blaze he ever saw. In recalling various fires he could recount some pretty narrow escapes. At one factory fire he fell through a kiln, burning timbers sticking into his ribs. He was given up for lost but keeping his face away from the flames managed to climb back out through the opening he had fallen through. He was in bed for three weeks from his injuries. At the Dortch Tobacco warehouse he was missed by inches by 3,000 pounds of tin plating. Tom can recount experiences like these for hours. If you ask him he will also tell of carrying people on his shoulders out of buildings, down ladders, through windows, and all sorts of dangerous places.

When asked what he was going to do Tom declared that first he was going to rest and then intended to help somebody and "serve the world as I have always done." After being a fireman for thirty years Tom does not think he will be satisfied with inactivity of any sort. As an afterthought he added, "I've got eight children at home and I expect that will mean plenty of work. Keeping eight children straight is hard work anywhere. I want them to do what I always did, follow the straight path, and they will get somewhere."

Policemen and Firemen – 1931

Virginia

PREJUDICE REFUSES TO GIVE NEGRO FIREMEN THE RIGHT OF WAY

Tribune

Southerner Becomes Angry When Fire Engine Demands Road While Speeding To Put Out Fire

Washington, D.C.

HALLS HILL, Va.—The coolness of a colored fire chief prevented a riot here last week when a Virginia citizen thought himself too good to get out of the way of the fire engine manned by colored men speeding to a fire.

9-14-31

According to Lloyd French, chief of the Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department, the men received a call and the engine responded. Later a second call was sent in and the chemical wagon was sent to the scene. While the engine was speeding down the road with the siren wide open a car driven by Joseph Birch, white, was in the path of the engine. The men blew repeatedly, but the man became vexed at colored firemen yelling at him and stopped in the road. The engine brushed the fender of his car which made the cittzen more angry. He jumped out of the car, grabbed an iron bar and advanced on the firemen.

Whites Dismissed

Chief French tried to explain that the men were going to a fire and were due the right of way. The citizen became incensed and threatened to strike the chief. Later Deputy Sherriff Paul Hermann, white, came on the scene, took the part of the white man and drew his gun on the firemen. Chief French ordered his men back to the engine, proceeded to the fire which was extinguished. A warrant was sworn out for the sheriff and an assault charge lodged against him. Judge Harry Thomas dismissed the case without hearing the firemen. Later Birch swore out a warrant for Chief French on an assault charge. This charge was also dismissed in court.

Colored Population

Halls Hill has a colored population of nearly 1,000. All of the business except one store is conducted by Negroes. The Fire Department has a modern engine and chemical wagon manned by 15 men. French is chief. Others are R. Branch, assistant chief; R. Nickerson, fire marshal; R. Richardson, captain and engineer; H. Chinn, captain and assistant engineer; S. Weeden, and E. Evans, drivers;; M. Brackett, G. Clark, H. Nickerson, F. Ewell, W. Broden, B. Watson, N. Spriggs and N. Hall.

RICHMOND WANTS COLORED COPS ON FORCE

Baltimore, Md.

RICHMOND, Va.—The recent expression of Judge Ricks, who declared that there is a necessity to have colored policemen and police women here, is being heralded with much approval.

No less a personage than Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, the "Gloomy Dean" of Virginia Union University, has come out with a public statement regarding the inequalities which have mitigated against the opening of these jobs to persons of color.

In a letter to the News-Leader, Dr. Hancock says:

"From a standpoint of race relations alone, the situation demands colored officials to serve among the race. No less imperative are the demands which grow out of our circumscribed economic life. So long as colored people must live under a system of segregation, it is no more than right and just that they should have such advantages as go along with segregation. If might is right then colored persons should indefinitely be denied certain advantages that accompany the policy of segregation and laws denying these advantages have their place upon the statute books of this city.

"But it is hard to believe that Richmond will much longer maintain a policy that is so contrary to certain other worthy traditions of which this city and state are so justly proud. Colored people constitute nearly one-third of the population of Richmond and, as such, share the credit for the prosperity and prestige of which Richmond so proudly boasts.

"The colored man is entitled to the consideration Judge Ricks has suggested, and if this is denied, it must be upon the basis of might makes right, a position incompatible with the prestige and tradition of this city. In these hard times, when so many are unemployed, there is no good reason why white men should sweep streets in segregated colored sections and do other such chores as would be of untold benefit to the impoverished colored people. The economic precariousness of these people no less than the cause of race relations, demands serious consideration of Judge Ricks's proposals.

"If colored officials are not supplied, the lack must not be attributed to any general satisfaction among colored people with the present state of things. Suppose, as Chief Jordan says, some law must be repealed before colored men could be appointed, this would be far more preferable than exacting of them certain responsibilities as citizens and denying the privileges that should accompany these responsibilities."